

Motorists driving less, so ADOT facing funding crisis

The rising cost of gas means people are buying less of it and driving less. That, in turn, means less revenue is coming in from gas taxes. Last week, Arizona's Department of Transportation estimated it is facing a potential loss of \$228 million in the coming year from the federal Highway Trust Fund, which is projecting a national deficit of \$3.3 billion.

"Arizona is facing a transportation funding crisis that requires a shift in the way we think about growth and an innovative approach to invest in our future," ADOT Director Victor Mendez wrote to members of the State Transportation Board. "Our current funding model cannot deliver the future transportation system necessary to keep Arizona competitive in a global economy, preserve our natural environment and offer the quality of life that our residents enjoy today."

Arizona collected almost \$700 million in transportation funds last fiscal year, up about \$50 million from the previous year.